

Message

From: Harris, Kimberly [harris.kimberly@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/30/2017 3:37:42 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel [Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]
Subject: FYI: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE: Ban on Teflon Chemicals Tied to Fewer Low-Weight Babies

Hi Rachael,

Can you also distribute the below article to your Wolverine group list?
(New York Times highlights recent publication which shows association between PFOA ban and fewer low-weight babies). As you probably know, Wolverine is responsible for PFOA contamination (and other PFAS cmpds) in the Rockford/Belmont areas.
Thx! -Kim

Ban on Teflon Chemical Tied to Fewer Low-Weight Babies

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/well/ban-on-teflon-chemical-tied-to-fewer-low-weight-babies.html>

Banning a chemical used to make Teflon led to a sharp decrease in pregnancy-related problems.

Perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, had been used in many consumer products, including nonstick cookware, food packaging, electronics and carpets. The chemical was linked to a range of health problems, including low-weight births. Beginning in 2003, its use was gradually phased out in the United States under an agreement between government and industry, and eliminated by 2014.

Researchers used data from a larger health study to estimate levels of serum PFOA in women of childbearing age. They gathered data on birth weights from a government database. The [study is in the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health.](#)

PFOA blood levels peaked in 2007-8, and then declined consistently each year through 2014. PFOA was implicated in 5 percent of low-weight births in 2007-8 and in 0.5 percent in 2013-14.

The researchers estimate that 118,009 low-weight births were prevented from 2003 to 2014, resulting in \$13.7 billion in savings.

“It’s important to highlight the role of the Environmental Protection Agency in this,” said the senior author, Dr. Teresa M. Attina, a research scientist at New York University. “They sponsored a program with this goal in mind, acting in a good way by involving industry in the interest of public health.”



Kimberly M. Harris

U.S. EPA-Region 5
PFAS Regional Team Leader

(312) 886-4239 Work
harris.kimberly@epa.gov

Water Division/GWDW6
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590